

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

Upon entry of this Second Amendment, claims 19-25 will be pending in this application.
All previous claims are canceled.

The newly added claims are supported by the specification, original claims, and the drawings. For instance, claim 19 is based upon original claims 1, 11, and 13. Claim 20 is based upon Figs. 10 and 11. Claims 21, 22, and 24 are based upon original claims 9, 7, and 3 respectively. Claims 23 and 25 are based upon the specification. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

As of the September 21, 2005 Office Action, claims 1, 3, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 123(b) as being anticipated by Oikawa (US 5,386,488). Claims 1, 7, 11-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamane et al. (US 6,126,325) in view of Tatch (US 6,220,765 B1). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oikawa in view of Tatch. Claims 6 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oikawa in view of Watanabe (US 5,132,532). Finally, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oikawa in view of Irie (US 2002/0085596 A1). All of these rejections are traversed by the cancellation of the rejected claims and the addition of new claims 19-25.

Applicants' optical module according to new claim 19 includes a tubular metallic guide. This is exemplified by guide 99 in Applicants' preferred embodiments. According to Applicants, Oikawa does not disclose their recited arrangement of a tubular metallic holder, a metallic sleeve, another sleeve, and a tubular metallic guide. This claimed combination provides the optical module of claim 19 with both optical alignments of the ferrule and an LD, and a guide for connecting the present optical module to an external optical fiber. Such is not taught or suggested in Oikawa. Such is not taught or suggested by any of the other art applied against the prior claims.

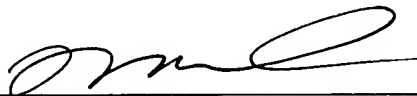
Applicants respectfully submit that this Second Amendment and the above remarks obviate the prior rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033035.129.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033035.129.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 21, 2006